09/926713

216723US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

YASUJI HIRAMATSU

: ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION

SERIAL NO: 09/926,713

FILED: DECEMBER 6, 2001

FOR: CERAMIC HEATER

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to a first examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

3. (Amended) The ceramic heater according to claim I,

wherein the opposite side to the face where said resistance heating element is formed of said ceramic substrate is a heating face.

4. (Amended) The ceramic heater according to claim 1,

wherein the thickness of said insulating layer is from 0.1 to 1000 μ m.

5. (Amended) The ceramic heater according to claim 1,

wherein the volume resistivity of said insulating layer is not less than 10 times larger

than the volume resistivity of said ceramic substrate.